

Catholic youth shot dead in Belfast

BELFAST (R) — A gunman shot dead an 18-year-old Catholic in Belfast Monday in the latest in a wave of sectarian and other killings in the British-ruled province, police said. Tony Dawson died in hospital after a gunman in a car shot him in the head as he stood talking to a friend. Police said Protestant gunmen probably carried out the attack, which brought to 26 the number of people killed in the province in the past two months. The attack follows a weekend warning by police that Irish republican guerrillas, fighting to end British rule, could launch a Christmas bomb blitz in the mainly-Protestant province. Seven soldiers in the mainly-Protestant Ulster Defence Regiment, a locally-recruited part of the British army, have meanwhile been charged with murdering the brother of a nationalist guerrilla last month.

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U.N. chief voices concern over bombings

UNITED NATIONS (R) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar voiced concern over the bombings in Kuwait, which he termed criminal acts. After a meeting with the Kuwaiti delegate, Mohammad Abulhasan, Mr. Perez de Cuellar issued this statement: "The secretary general has learned with concern of the bombing incidents which took place in Kuwait Monday morning and which were directed at various targets, including diplomatic premises. He deplores these criminal acts of violence and the resulting loss of innocent lives and material damage."

Tunis urges lifting of Tripoli blockade

TUNIS (R) — Tunisia Monday appealed for the lifting of the blockade of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasir Arafat and his fighters in the northern Lebanese port of Tripoli. The Tunisian news agency, TAP said, Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi said he had discussed with the Syrian charge d'affaires and the Soviet, French and Italian ambassadors here ways to lift the Israeli blockade of Tripoli.

Militiamen detain British soldiers

BEIRUT (R) — Three British soldiers in the multinational force strayed into southern suburbs of Beirut Monday and were briefly detained by gunmen, a British military spokesman said. The soldiers, in uniform and armed, were on patrol in a Land Rover when the driver took a wrong turning into the Haret Hreik area controlled by the Shi'ite Muslim militia Amal. The gunmen released them and their vehicle unharmed after less than an hour, he said.

Luce to visit Oman, UAE

LONDON (R) — Foreign Office Junior Minister Richard Luce will visit Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) this week as part of a series of familiarisation visits to the region. The Foreign Office said Mr. Luce would arrive in Oman on Wednesday and leave for the UAE on Saturday. He will return home next Tuesday.

Israelis warn former detainees

SIDON (R) — Israeli military authorities in South Lebanon Monday summoned about 2,000 Lebanese and Palestinian former detainees to warn them against any hostile activity, Lebanese security sources said. Most of those summoned were released from the Anas Prison camp in South Lebanon on Nov. 24.

Death toll rises in Tanzanian disaster

DAR ES SALAAM (R) — The death toll from last Saturday's rail disaster when a passenger train crashed after hitting a 100 kilogramme iron bar deliberately planted on the line has risen from 19 to 21. Radio Tanzania said Monday. Police have arrested two people from a village near where the Dar Es Salaam-bound train was derailed, 480 kilometres west of the capital, the radio said.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by Petra Press Foundation

Beirut clashes erupt before new truce

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese troops clashed with anti-government militiamen in Beirut's southern suburbs Monday shortly before a new ceasefire came into effect, security sources said. As the fresh fighting flared, a special security committee failed to meet as planned for the first time in eight days to discuss the reopening of Beirut airport, the sources added. They said militiamen from a Shi'ite populated slum neighbourhood fired 10 rounds of rocket-propelled grenades at nearby army positions. Several mortars were fired at army positions in the southern suburbs and the army returned fire, the sources said. There were no reports of casualties. The clashes followed a night of sporadic fighting between the Lebanese army and militiamen in spite of a ceasefire arranged in Damascus on Friday. State-run Beirut Radio said a ceasefire came into effect at 12.10 p.m. (1010 GMT), the third since Sunday.

U.S., French embassies attacked • Beirut group claims responsibility Kuwait blasts kill 4, injure 54

KUWAIT (R) — Six bombs in the Gulf state of Kuwait, two of them directed against the U.S. and French embassies, Monday killed at least four people and injured 54, government officials and diplomatic sources said.

Bombs also exploded at the international airport, the Electricity and Water Ministry, a residential complex used by Americans and an industrial site on the city outskirts while a seventh bomb was defused near a government passport office.

In Beirut, the so-called "Islamic Jihad (holy war)" organisation said it had carried out the bombings. It was one of the groups that claimed responsibility for the Oct. 23 bomb attacks on U.S. and French military bases in Beirut.

The Kuwait New Agency (KUNA) said a number of people were being held for investigation but gave no details.

A U.S. embassy official told Reuters three or four people were killed and 15 injured when a truck filled with explosives blew up in the mission's walled compound, causing extensive damage. He said no Americans were killed.

At the airport, eyewitnesses said a booby-trapped car exploded under the control tower, about 100 metres from the main terminal building nearly 30 minutes after the U.S. embassy blast. They said debris was flung over a wide area.

The airport was operating normally Monday afternoon, according to officials of the Gulf state of 1.4 million people which borders on Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

Travel ban imposed

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Explosion at airport

Palestinians and nationals of five Middle East countries have

Regent contacts Sheikh Sa'd

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday contacted Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Sa'd Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah, expressing regret for the explosions that took place in some areas of the Kuwaiti capital Monday morning, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

The Regent, who contacted Sheikh Sa'd by telephone, wished the injured a speedy recovery, Petra said. Sheikh Sa'd thanked Prince Hassan on behalf of the Kuwaiti government and people for the brotherly gesture, the agency added.

The American official said parts

Tripoli port ready for evacuation

TRIPOLI, Lebanon (R) — Port authorities said Monday repairs at Tripoli harbour had been completed and Yasser Arafat and his supporters would be able to sail by Wednesday if international guarantees for their safety were secured by then.

Lebanese security sources in this northern port city said workers and technicians had finished their work and frogmen had swept the harbour bottom looking for any unexploded shells from the recent fighting between Palestinian factions.

All was now ready for Greek ships which are scheduled to pick up Mr. Arafat and his fighting forces. Flags had been put up on buoys near the sites of sunken ships inside the port.

Greece has agreed to provide naval transport for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman and his men provided it secures safety guarantees from the four countries of the multinational peace force in Beirut.

Meanwhile in Baghdad Mr. Arafat was quoted as saying Monday he was convinced Syria was planning a major offensive to oust him from Tripoli.

He told the ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra the Syrians continued to reinforce their positions and an armoured brigade had been brought into the area.

"Therefore we are now besieged by two (Syrian) divisions and a Syrian-controlled Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) brigade," he was quoted as saying.

Asked whether this applied to government officials he had met during his trips to Tunis and Rabat, he said Morocco's King Hassan had a "quite full" understanding of U.S. goals.

"We had a chance to express what we are doing and why to the Tunisians," he said.

On leaving Tunis on Saturday Mr. Shultz said he had received "an earful" from his hosts.

During his stay in Lisbon, Mr. Shultz will discuss southern African problems with Portuguese officials.

Shultz reassures Morocco on U.S.-Israeli pact, page 2

plane, Mr. Shultz said he believed the Israelis were unready to state publicly that they would not attack, and that they found the prospect of a Tripoli evacuation under a United Nations flag "disastrous".

But he added: "I also have the impression that the Greek ships are not going to be attacked by Syrian-backed rebels."

Mr. Shultz arrived in Lisbon to initial a new agreement with Portugal on American use of a big air base in the Azores.

Mr. Shultz flew from Rabat where he had explained new U.S. ties with Israel to Morocco's King Hassan. Lisbon is his final stop in a week-long five-nation trip that began in Bonn.

"Let's get them out," he added.

In a press conference aboard his

been banned from leaving Kuwait until further notice, airport officials said.

The ban applies to Iraqis, Jordanians, Lebanese, Syrians, Iranians and Palestinians holding passports of any of those countries or laissez-passer documents.

All passengers arriving at the airport were being held in the terminal and officials said it might be at least two or three hours before they would be allowed into the city.

U.S. sources said there were apparently no casualties at the residential complex, although some damage was caused.

Blast near refinery

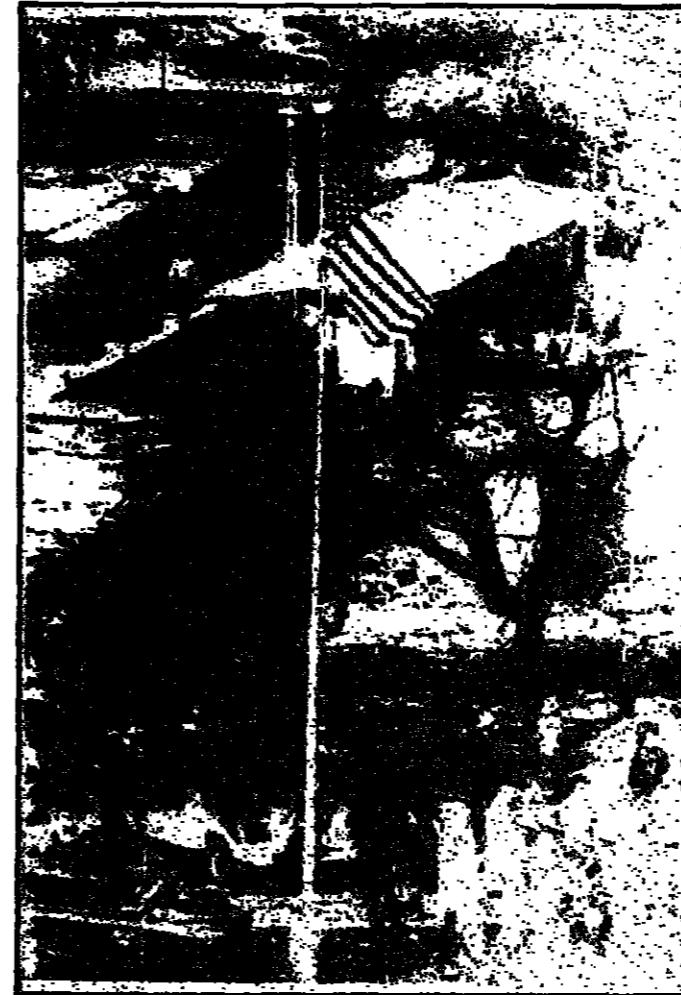
KUNA said a yellow truck with no number plate and loaded with gas cylinders exploded near a gas refinery at the major industrial and petrochemical complex of Shuaiba.

Diplomats said security around foreign missions, especially the U.S., French and British embassies, was intensified after the bombings. Several roads were blocked and armoured vehicles were visible.

Security was also stepped up around U.S., French and other missions in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and other Gulf states, diplomats said.

Elite security police surrounded the U.S. embassy in Bahrain and police helicopters circled the diplomatic quarter.

Kuwait, a small but oil-rich



Kuwaiti police and investigators inspect the compound of the United States embassy Monday, following a car bomb explosion which killed four foreign employees.

state with one of the highest per capita income rates in the world, lies at the north-west end of the Gulf close to the war zone where Iran and Iraq have been fighting for more than three years.

The "Islamic Jihad" is one of the groups which claimed responsibility for the Oct. 23 twin car bomb attacks against the U.S. Marine and French military bases in Beirut which killed 24 American servicemen and 58 French paratroopers.

It had also claimed responsibility for the bombing of the American embassy in Beirut on April 18 which killed a total of 63 people.

Little is known about the shadowy group whose main targets appear to be French and American institutions.

U.S. moves will continue

The bomb attack on the U.S. embassy in Kuwait will not distract Washington from its search for peace and stability in the Middle East, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said in Rabat.

Speaking before leaving for Portugal after a two-day visit to Morocco, Mr. Shultz referred to Monday morning's bombing and said:

"We are struggling for peace and stability in the area but what happened today reminds us of the difficulties. We will do our share. We will continue to pursue peace and stability."

In Paris, an External Relations Ministry spokesman, expressing France's "strong emotion" at the series of bomb blasts, said the government was confident that Kuwait would find and bring to justice "those responsible for these odious actions."

Gulf security stepped up, page 2

Dollar goes up following Kuwait bombings, page 7

U.S. had attack warning

WASHINGTON (R) — Monday's truck bomb attack on the U.S. embassy in Kuwait killed four foreign employees and injured 37 other people, the State Department said.

Spokesman Alan Roemer said there had been earlier threats of an attack on the embassy and precautions had been taken.

But guards may not have had time to shoot as the truck careered around a corner, smashed through a gate and exploded near a large embassy annexe building, he told reporters.

State Department officials said

U.S. forces quit Grenada

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada (R) — About 1,000 United States paratroopers left Grenada Monday, completing the total withdrawal of American combat troops 11 days ahead of the deadline set by Washington, a senior U.S. military officer said.

The soldiers boarded six C-141 army transport planes at sunrise at the dusty, half-built Point Salines airport, the site of heavy fighting between U.S. troops and Cubans after the U.S.-led invasion.

The six planes with the paratroopers aboard took off one after the other for the four-hour flight back to Pope Air Base in North Carolina.

The battalion of the 82nd Airborne Division which left Monday

arrived in Grenada two days after the start of the Oct. 25 invasion.

Washington had said U.S. combat troops would be withdrawn from Grenada by Dec. 23.

The soldiers had been fighting between U.S. troops and Cubans after the U.S.-led invasion.

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Israelis demolish homes of W. Bank Palestinians

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli authorities Sunday night demolished the homes of three alleged Palestinian guerrillas accused of killing a Jewish seminary student in the West Bank town of Hebron, military officials said.

The authorities also sealed off four other homes of alleged guerrillas in Hebron and Ramallah, they said.

It is the first time since Defense Minister Moshe Arens took over responsibility for the occupied territories earlier this year that Israeli forces have blown up the homes of Palestinians as punishment for attacks on Jewish settlers.

Mr. Arens has reportedly come under increased pressure from Jewish settlers to take tougher measures against Palestinians resisting Israel's 16-year-old rule over the West Bank.

Three of those whose homes were sealed off have been charged with hand grenade attacks on Jewish settlers in the territories.

The fourth home sealed off bel-

onged to a Palestinian accused of helping in the killing of the seminary student, Aharon Gross, last July.

The four had admitted guilt during an investigation and would be tried in a military court, the officials said.

Destruction of homes was a practice followed by Mr. Arens' predecessor Ariel Sharon, and others before him.

Some 22,000 settlers have moved into the West Bank, excluding Jerusalem, where 800,000 Palestinians live. The settlers have been urging the government to

expel Palestinian attacker and impose longer jail sentences to prevent unrest.

In a separate incident, a booby-trapped hand grenade exploded in the West Bank village of Haussan, near Bethlehem. Monday when a Palestinian opened the front door of her home.

Two other booby-trapped hand grenades of Israeli army manufacture, were found in a police search of the town. According to reports received from the West Bank Monday, the Israeli impeded a curfew on Haussan.

Egypt to send envoy to Israel

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian foreign ministry official will travel to Israel for talks on the border dispute between the two countries in the Sinai area of Tabo, the Cairo newspaper, Al-Akhbar reported.

It quoted Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali as saying the forthcoming talks were agreed upon last month. He did not name the official or say when he was scheduled to go to Israel.

Egypt and Israel held talks on the issue last month but failed to make any progress on who should have ultimate control of Tabo.

Egypt, which signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979, maintains that a complete pullout of Israeli troops from Lebanon, a settlement to the Tabo dispute and the reactivation of talks on the Palestinian question will have to be met before it reinstalls an ambassador in Israel.

Egypt withdrew its envoy in September last year in protest against the massacre of Palestinians in two Beirut refugee camps.

Judge allows Sharon suit against Time

NEW YORK (R) — A judge has refused to dismiss a \$50 million libel suit by former Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon against Time magazine for alleging he knowingly permitted the massacre of Palestinians in west Beirut in September, 1982.

In unusually strong language, Judge Abraham Sofaer said the statements "sued upon are defamatory on their face."

Judge Sofaer said he would permit the case to go to trial and allow the magazine to present evidence to counter the claim by Mr. Sharon, now a minister without portfolio, that he was libeled.

NABLUS, Occupied West Bank (J.T.) — Eleven-year-old Aisha Al Bahsh (picture right), was killed Thursday in Nablus, in the West Bank, by an Israeli who opened fire near a bakery owned by the child's father, the father told Israeli Television.

The father said the Israeli, presumably a settler, started chasing a number of children who had stood his car and opened fire when he reached the bakery. After Aisha and her elder sister Fida' were assailant hit-and-run away. The father moved the two wounded girls to hospital immediately, where the younger died.

Egypt looks towards upsurge of tourists to boost hard-hit economy

By Ashraf Fouad

A further 30 per cent were businessmen attending conventions, while the rest were Arabs seeking leisure, medical treatment or visits to friends and relatives.

Despite its Mediterranean and Red Sea beaches, Egypt did not attract a share of the summer holiday tourist traffic which constituted 80 per cent of the world-policed capital.

Tourism Minister Tawfik Abu Ismail told Reuters that Egypt aimed to push tourist earnings above \$1 billion annually in coming years.

This compares with about \$600 million in the year to last July and more than \$710 million two years earlier, before the assassination of President Anwar Sadat and Israel's invasion of Lebanon apparently put off some Western visitors.

"What has happened and is happening in Lebanon has a great effect on our tourism." It suggested to the West "that the Middle East, which is viewed as an entity, is not stable," Ismail said.

He said 40 per cent of the tourists visiting Egypt came mainly to see the pyramids and other Nile-side antiquities.

200,000 Americans

Official figures show that U.S. nationals, of whom some 200,000 are expected this year, remain Egypt's chief customers. Also some 13,400 Saudis have visited Egypt during the past nine months.

After Egypt signed its 1979 peace treaty with Israel and most Arab League members cut diplomatic ties with Cairo, there were fears that Arab tourists would stop coming to enjoy the nightlife and other amenities in the well-policed capital.

But Ismail said: "The peace treaty did not affect individuals. They (Arabs) are even investing in our hotel industry."

Israeli tourists have also been visiting Egypt since the peace treaty and about 35,000 now come each year, he said.

Mr. Ismail said they visited noted historic sites and Damour, near Alexandria, the site of a former Jewish community with a cemetery including tombs of Jewish saints.

He hoped that by 1986 Egypt would be ready to compete with other Mediterranean centres for summer holiday trade.

Japan was another potential source of visitors. Egypt Air, the national flag carrier, had scheduled a weekly Boeing 747 Tokyo flight, which was running at 75 per cent of capacity.

Gulf security tight after Kuwait bombings

BAHRAIN (R) — Security was stepped up around U.S. French and other foreign embassies in Gulf capitals after series of bombings in Kuwait in which at least two people were killed.

In Kuwait, security police sealed off streets leading to the U.S. and French legations, both hit by bombs, and stationed armoured personnel carriers elsewhere, including four outside the British embassy, diplomats said.

In the Saudi capital, Jeddah, U.S. diplomats said extra security measures had been put in force but they declined to be specific.

In Bahrain, 40 elite security police, armed with sub machine-guns, moved in to the areas around the U.S. embassy, looking relaxed but keeping a careful eye on the white-painted embassy and the surrounding streets.

A truck full of police commandos arrived at the U.S. ambas-

sador's residence on the island, tucked behind palm trees in the diplomatic quarter, to tighten security.

Police helicopters circled the Bahrain diplomatic area in the late morning, before residents learned of the Kuwait bombing from foreign radio stations.

In Abu Dhabi, capital of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), three armoured personnel carriers were stationed outside the American embassy and armed security police patrolled diplomatic areas.

A U.S. embassy spokesman in Abu Dhabi told Reuters security had been stepped up immediately after news of the Kuwait bombing emerged. Anyone entering the legation was being carefully searched, he said.

Zimbabwe press raps Sudan's laws

HARARE (R) — A leading Zimbabwe newspaper called Sunday on the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to act against what called human rights violations in Sudan where two thieves had their right hands amputated on Friday.

"The mutilation of the human body represents human degradation of the worst order which must concern people of the world in general and those in Africa in particular," the Sunday Mail said in an editorial comment.

The Mail said President Jaafar Numeiri had committed "the diabolical deed in order to please and appease his masters" who were giving him money. It did not say who it believed to be behind his actions.

"I wish some of those who are discussing it would come forward and show me a copy of this treaty."

The U.S. has faced strong Arab criticism following a decision by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and President Reagan on Nov. 29 to set up a joint committee to look into closer political and military cooperation.

The move has been described as a strategic pact but officials say it was far short of a treaty.

U.S. officials said the meeting with King Hassan was not strident as it was in Tunis Saturday when Mr. Shultz met Tunisian leaders.

They said much of the meeting dealt with the Palestinian question and how it could be resolved.

Efforts are being made to evacuate Palestine Liberation leader Yasser Arafat and 4,000 armed guerrilla supporters from Tripoli in northern Lebanon under the protection of the United Nations.

Israel which has gunboats off the coast has refused to give guarantees of safety for the Greek ships that are expected to take out the Arafat loyalists.

Mr. Shultz said Sunday that he expected the evacuation to go

Turkish president checks new premier's list of ministers

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister-designate Turgut Ozal, whose conservative Motherland Party won a majority in last month's general elections, delivered his choice of ministers to the presidential palace Monday morning.

"Most probably, the president will ratify the list and I will announce it to you tomorrow morning," Mr. Ozal said.

Gen. Evren last week called on Mr. Ozal, a former minister in charge of the economy, to head the country's first elected government since the coup.

Traditionally, the president ratifies the cabinet list immediately after the incoming prime minister presents it to him, and is dismissed straight away.

But after a 40-minute meeting with Gen. Evren, Mr. Ozal told reporters the president was exercising a constitutional right to scrutinize the list of ministers.

He referred to article 109 of the

constitution, which states that the cabinet is nominated by the prime minister and appointed by the president.

"Most probably, the president will ratify the list and I will announce it to you tomorrow morning," Mr. Ozal said.

It was believed to be the first time since the advent of a multi-party system in Turkey in the mid-1940s that the cabinet list of an elected prime minister was not given immediate ratification.

In 1972, during a previous military intervention, the proposed cabinet of an appointed prime minister was rejected by the then president.

But, political observers said they did not believe Gen. Evren would reject Mr. Ozal's list.

They said Gen. Evren probably wanted to consult the newly-

formed presidential council, comprising the four former military chiefs who with Gen. Evren made up the ruling National Security Council (NSC) until it dissolved last week.

The observers said there were probably names on Mr. Ozal's list which were new to the president and with which he wanted to acquaint himself.

So far, Mr. Ozal has given no hint of the make-up of his proposed cabinet. But it is expected to include people from outside parliament and possibly one or two men barred from contesting the election by the NSC.

Mr. Ozal, a free-marketeer committed to trimming the huge Turkish bureaucracy, has said he plans to cut the number of ministries from 26 to 21.

Arabs should use financial clout to influence U.S., Kuwaiti banker says

BAHRAIN (R) — A top Kuwaiti banker Monday urged Arab investors to use their financial muscle to push American policy in the Middle East from what he described as pro-Israeli bias towards balance.

A truck full of police commandos arrived at the U.S. ambassador's residence on the island, tucked behind palm trees in the diplomatic quarter, to tighten security.

Police helicopters circled the Bahrain diplomatic area in the late morning, before residents learned of the Kuwait bombing from foreign radio stations.

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Shultz' talks in Morocco much less strident than those held in Algeria

RABAT (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said Sunday he had constructive and informative talks with King Hassan of Morocco on Washington's new strategic relationship with Israel.

Mr. Shultz had arrived from Tunis where he said he was fed up with hearing criticism of the planned closer Israeli-U.S. links.

He said at a press conference that he told the king what the United States was doing and thinking in its relations with Israel, adding, "as far as I could see it was received in that same spirit."

The secretary of state reaffirmed the strong U.S.-Israeli relationship. But when asked by a reporter about a treaty between the two countries, he replied:

"I wish some of those who are discussing it would come forward and show me a copy of this treaty."

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Israel which has gunboats off the coast has refused to give guarantees of safety for the Greek ships that are expected to take out the Arafat loyalists.

Mr. Shultz said Sunday that he expected the evacuation to go

ahead.

He said that when U.S. forces helped arrange the departure of Mr. Arafat and Palestinian fighters from Beirut last year, the U.S. believed there was an understanding that he would not return to Lebanon.

Mr. Shultz said he and King Hassan discussed at great length the Reagan Middle East peace plan calling for Palestinian self-rule, in association with the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

He said King Hassan, who has close relations with His Majesty King Hussein, had a number of suggestions.

U.S. officials said later the talks with Hassan included a discussion of how to break the current deadlock and start Middle East peace negotiations.

Mr. Shultz said he hoped that a referendum would be held in the disputed Western Sahara where Morocco is fighting Algerian-backed Polisario guerrillas.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Dr. Mohammad Al Souqi	76721
Nayrouk pharmacy	23672
Advan pharmacy	39553
Rus'eidah pharmacy	22347
Jabal Al Hussain pharmacy	38410
Al Ejja pharmacy	72165

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre	N131-32
Khalid Maternity J. Amman	4221-4
Alekh Maternity J. Amman	42441
Majlis J. Amman	36140
Simeis Hospital	66417-4
University Hospital	66454-5
Al-Mashriq J. Hussein	66515-5
Al-Muthaser Hospital	667227-9
The Islamic, Abdali	665292
Al-Ahli, Abdali	66416-3
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	77

Twelve sentenced to hang for land sales to enemy

AMMAN (Petra) — Twelve people have been sentenced to death by hanging in absentia for selling land to the enemy.

The sentence, which also includes the confiscation of the criminals' property and the cancellation of the sale, has been approved by the cabinet after being passed by a special court for combatting land-sale to the enemy.

The convicts are Sadiq Rashid Balyieh, Mohammad Shaker Qasem, Odeh and Farid Mohammad Balyieh from the West Bank village of Fundug; Mahmoud Dawoud Sarsour from Hablah; Theeb

Othman Theeb, Mohammad Abdul Qader Abu Zuhair, Hassan Mohammad Abdul Qader, Ahmad Al Hajj Awadhi, Mohammad Shaker Da'san from the village of Hajjah; Hassan Ali Bashir from Safout; Majid Abdul Karim from Al Matin and Muafid Abdul Hafeed Abu Al Hidneyeh from Kuf Laqif.

Sixty-year-old Amman resident Abdul Jaber Qasem, known as Al Sarhad, from the village of Hajjah has been sentenced to 20 years imprisonment with hard labour and confiscation of his property.

Arab Thought Forum conference concluded

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Arab-American-Canadian conference, sponsored by the Amman-based Arab Thought Forum Sunday concluded its two-day discussions at the Royal Cultural Centre here.

Most of the 36 delegates from a variety of countries began leaving Jordan for their homes Monday morning.

After the opening session in which His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent delivered a keynote address Saturday afternoon though all discussions were held behind closed doors.

Officials at the conference said all the proceedings were tape recorded and will be transcribed, but that the transcripts will not be publicly released. A forum official said that no resolutions were passed by the conference, however.

After the conclusion of the conference, delegates were reluctant to discuss the substance of the conference's deliberations and stressed that the main function of the conference was to exchange ideas.

But the great concern of some Arab delegates regarding the "new" American-Israeli agreements on strategic co-operation to some extent overshadowed the conference, according to participants.

In his address at the opening session of the conference, Crown Prince Hassan, who is the forum chairman, warned against the threat of a superpower confrontation erupting from the Mideast tensions and called for the entry of the Soviet Union into the peace process.

He also criticised the United

States, Syria and the PLO for contributing to the continued tragedy in Lebanon and to the regional instability.

Attending the conference on the opening night, in addition to delegates, was Crown Prince Hamad Bin Issa Al Khalifah of Bahrain.

Delegates included 22 Arab politicians, diplomats, business leaders and intellectuals (seven forum trustees and 15 forum members and guests), six Americans, four Canadians and four European heads of international affairs institutes.

Among those distinguished participants were also Jordan's National Consultative Council (NCC) member, Dr. Khalil Salem, President of the council on U.S. Foreign Affairs in New York Winston Lord, former New York Times Middle East Correspondent Peter Grose, former Canadian ambassador to the United Nations and one time Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs William Barton, former leader of the opposition in the Canadian parliament and former premier of the province of Nova Scotia, Robert Stanfield, editor-in-chief of the leading Canadian daily newspaper Le Devoir Lise Bissonnette, and the head of the British Royal Institute of International Affairs.

The Arab Thought Forum was formed in March 1981 to address problems and to try to find solutions in the Arab World and to promote Arab contributions to world heritage and civilisation.

Nine delegates Monday made a visit to the ruins of the ancient city of Petra in the south-west of Jordan.

UNEP completes study

AMMAN (Petra) — A visiting United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) team Monday concluded a visit to Jordan during which they made studies on combating desertification and developing pastures in Jordan.

The study dealt with ways of stopping desertification, deterioration in pasture lands, improving the living standards of des-

ert area inhabitants and discouraging geographical migration.

Jordan was among four countries chosen by the UNEP to carry out such a study, the other three countries being Indonesia, Peru and Botswana.

The study made by the team, who arrived here November 12, is regarded as the first of its kind in the programme.

NCC members call for end to travel restrictions

By Lamis K. Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — National Consultative Council (NCC) member Carlos De'emes has called on the Jordanian government to lift restrictions imposed last April on travel between the East Bank and the Israeli occupied West Bank.

The regulations, issued by the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs, restrict the duration of West Bank and Gaza Strip residents' stay in Jordan. Residents of the West Bank on their visits to Jordan are allowed to stay one month only on each visit. The restrictions were said to aim at limiting emigration from the occupied territories. Due to the difficult economic situation, many West Bankers seek job opportunities in Jordan and the Gulf



Members of the National Consultative Council Sunday debate the 1984 draft budget here (Petra photo)

countries.

Dr. De'emes said in a speech to the council that "the negative effects of the restrictions have by far exceeded their positive effects." He did not elaborate but called for the lifting of these restrictions.

Similar observations were voiced by Mr. Leith Eshbelat, who described as "insufficient" the support rendered to enhance the steadfastness of the people living in the occupied Arab territories.

He said that the situation has deteriorated in the West Bank and engineers are compelled to learn Hebrew in order to find work in Israel.

"Is that what we want?" he asked.

Restrictions would not have had to be taken "had the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs was successful in carrying out its job of supporting the steadfastness of the people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip."

He said that the situation has deteriorated in the West Bank and engineers are compelled to learn Hebrew in order to find work in Israel.

"Is that what we want?" he asked.

Transport union to mediate on border

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Land Transport Union Secretary-General Abdallah Al Omari returned home Saturday after taking part in the union's general assembly and board of directors meetings held in the Tunisian city of Susa December 6.

Mr. Omari said that the board took a number of decisions among

which were to give priority in transport and contracts to union member companies as well as giving employment to Arab workers over their foreign counterparts.

The board also decided to form a committee comprising the union's members to go to Syria and Iraq to propose an initiative by the union to reopen the borders



Wolfram Lorenzen

German romantic pianist to play twice at RCC

AMMAN (J.T.) — West German pianist Wolfram Lorenzen is scheduled to give two concerts of classical and romantic music at the Royal Cultural Centre here on Dec. 15 and 17.

Born in Freiburg in 1952, Mr. Lorenzen studied under Wilhelm Kempff in Positano, Italy.

In 1967, he won the first prize at the International Piano Festival in Finale Ligure, Italy while he was also a prizewinner at the International Piano Competition in Senigallia, Italy in 1977, at the Monza piano competition in 1980.

The International Pozzoli Competition in Milan in 1981 and at the Montevideo competition last year.

Mr. Lorenzen has made recordings for the gramophone in Germany and abroad while his touring has taken him to Australia and Asia. In Amman, Mr. Lorenzen will play two different programmes. On Dec. 15, he will perform pieces by Mozart, Chopin, Schumann and Schubert. Two days later the concert programme will comprise works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Schumann, Beethoven, Brahms and Liszt.

The Jordanian team also took part in the executive committee meeting, which approved the organisation of two training courses on local community development and social research and planning.

Mrs. Mufti said the Jordanian delegation presented the conference with two papers on the role of women in rural production, and vocational training and recruitment.

The Jordanian team also took part in the executive committee meeting, which approved the organisation of two training courses on local community development and social research and planning.

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The Jordanian

Jordan Times

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If hope is not enough...

PRIME MINISTER Mudar Badran's statement to the National Consultative Council (NCC) Sunday contained a loud and clear message to the Americans: By signing those new agreements on "strategic co-operation" with Israel, Washington has completely taken sides with the enemy and against us, thus leaving itself no room to play its long-awaited mediating role in the Arab-Israeli conflict. With a situation like this then, there can be no talk of peace except within the bounds of the United Nations, where the Soviet Union should participate equally with the rest to wrest a balanced and just settlement to the Palestinian problem, the prime minister indicated.

If the Reagan administration will not agree to Soviet participation in the search for a Middle East solution, and will not back down on its envisaged accords with Israel, then the Arabs are under no obligation to co-operate with the Americans on U.S. goals in this part of the world. Let the Israelis do it for them — and let us see how far they can get.

In his wide-ranging statement, Mr. Badran also stressed an important fact that must not be overlooked, here and abroad. Modern Arab history records that Arab countries, whenever faced with a tilt by the U.S. away from the Arabs and towards Israel, have tended to launch a protest here and there but the whole issue would soon be forgotten, in diplomatic channels and contacts or otherwise. Not this time though.

The Palestinian problem has always been the crux of the conflict in the Middle East, and always will be. The fact that it gets sidetracked at times in no way means that the Arabs will forget about their rights and their struggle of many decades to regain these rights.

The projected U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance will generate a violent reaction in the Arab World, the prime minister warned, and we hope that a more sensible approach by the Americans will prevail to avert such an eventuality.

And if hope is not enough at this stage, everyone must be prepared to see a worsening situation becoming increasingly deadlocked — with consequences unpredictable.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: End to U.S. mediation

IN HIS address to the National Consultative Council Sunday Prime Minister Mudar Badran referred to the danger inherent in the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance, describing it as a move that placed the U.S. in the same trench with the Israelis in confrontation with the Arab states. This means that the role which Washington was assuming as a peace mediator has now ended. The prime minister also said that any peace initiative should now be based on the conception of involving all concerned parties to the Middle East issue and also the Soviet Union, and that any search for peace should start from the very beginning and be based on U.N. resolutions.

If the United States insists on tackling the issue single-handedly and persists in its present policies, it must be made to realize two facts: That its alliance with Israel does not qualify it to play a peace mediator role and that the Arabs, who have been disillusioned by Washington's policies, will never from now on accept peace mediators who share with the Israeli enemy the desire to subdue and subjugate the Arabs to foreign domination after evicting them from their homelands. Reaction to the new alliance is bound to take on unpredictable proportions and forms.

Al Dustour: Full partner in aggression

IN HIS interview with an American television network, King Hussein made it clear that the search for peace is being confronted by Israel's intransigence and America's failure to honour its commitments towards this peace. He reiterated Jordan's total commitment to relentless efforts for the establishment of a just and durable peace based on U.N. Security Council 242. But he said that the recent U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance and Israel's persistence in establishing settlements on the occupied lands make it impossible for peace to be achieved.

The King pointed out that the most tragic thing about the whole issue was to see Washington rewarding Israel for rejecting the Reagan proposals by offering it unlimited military and economic assistance within the framework of an alliance directed in form and content against the Arab Nation. The new alliance makes the U.S. a full partner in aggression against the Arabs and the sufferings that have been plaguing the Arab Nation over the past 35 years.

Sawt Al Shaab: Peace only after withdrawal

IN JORDAN'S view a comprehensive peace means a total withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied Arab land and the recognition of the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland. Israel's concept of peace is quite different. Israel wants the land and wants to build settlements on Arab territory and thus of course it displays total rejection of Jordan's views and peace concepts.

In his interview with an American television network, King Hussein voiced Jordan's readiness to do everything possible to achieve peace on the basis of the U.N. Security Council resolution. But Jordan does not accept peace based on injustice and aggression. How can peace be achieved if Israel continues to invade other Arab countries' lands and evict the indigenous population from their homes? The U.S.-Israeli alliance has drawn the Middle East region further towards international polarisation with the result that any hopes for peace and the settlement of the Palestine problem will be lost for ever.

The age of games

By Rami G. Khouri

ONE OF the grizzliest games in the Middle East world of fantasy is the game called: Make Believe the PLO Does Not Exist and Find Someone to Replace It. It is being played yet again these days, as it tends to be, by various players, at an average of once every 18 months. The game has several corollaries, including: Dazzle the Jordanians, Zap the Commissars, and Pay Off the Israelis. The corollaries tend to enter the game just when the action reaches its peak, and it becomes difficult for the uninitiated observer to understand what's going on without a full explanation of how the game is played. As one of my occasional public service gestures, I hereby offer a simplified explanation of the game, for those who are puzzled by the things they hear or read these days.

Make Believe the PLO Does Not Exist and Find Someone to Replace It (hereafter known as MBPLDNEFSRI) is a game that was invented in the late 1970s, after successive attempts in the 1950s and 1960s failed to relegate the Palestinian issue to the discard file of history. The Palestinians developed their own leadership, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), only after several decades of unsuccessful Arab attempts to confront the Israelis. Once the PLO was formally established in the early 1960s, ins-

tutionally strengthened in the late 60s and internationally recognised in the early and mid-1970s, it became imperative, in the eyes of both Israel and the United States, to do away with it. At first, the PLO was simply ignored. Then it was branded purely as a terror organisation. Then it was physically attacked in Lebanon and elsewhere. Finally, in the late 1970s, Israel and the United States put their heads together and came up with MBPLDNEFSRI.

It would be tempting to view this concept as a grand American-Israeli-capitalist-imperialist conspiracy, but I don't think this is the case. It is, in the end, just a game that people and powers play, as all of us play games when we want to get away from the depressing reality of our world.

As it is being played this season, MBPLDNEFSRI has been triggered by the problems of the PLO in northern Lebanon, where the Arafat majority within the PLO is being subjected to an armed rebellion by Palestinian dissidents supported by Syria and Libya. The short-term chaos within the ranks of the PLO has been viewed by Western observers as the start of the disintegration of the PLO. And if the PLO starts disintegrating, it becomes an urgent priority to find someone to replace it. The game, at this stage, has started in earnest.

Several attempts have been made in recent years to find replacements for the PLO. These have included the Israeli-backed Village Leagues, the Egyptians (in the Camp David negotiations), and some mayors of the West Bank. In all cases, the game ended in failure, because an artificial Palestinian leadership to replace the PLO, and negotiate on behalf of the Palestinian people, could never get anywhere precisely because it was artificial.

No w., the MBPLDNEFSRI game is being played again, but this time the objective is to have Jordan replace the PLO. On the assumption that the PLO is finished (an assumption that we have heard several times in the last decade, and which was always proved wrong), the players of the game are looking to Jordan as the party that would step in and represent the Palestinians. This is where the "Dazzle the Jordanians" part of the game comes in. We are seeing a veritable chorus of Western, mainly American, suggestions that this is the time for King Hussein to make a bold gesture and present himself as the saviour of the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, to step forward and lead the Palestinians into negotiations under the aegis of the September 1982 Reagan initiative. Various means are used to Dazzle the

Jordanians. There is the withholding of substantial arms sales until Jordan plays the game. There is a dangling of American promises to deal favourably with the Israelis if Jordan plays the game. There is, most recently, the taunting of the Jordanian leadership by suggesting that this is the time for Jordan to be bold and daring, instead of being "equivocal" and "hesitant".

Then there is the Zap the Commissars corollary. This attempts to further camouflage the real intent of the game (to make believe the PLO does not exist) by appealing to a higher Arab fear of the "Soviet threat to the Arab World" — a rather peculiar threat, one thinks, when one recalls that Jordan has conducted arms purchase discussions with the Soviet Union in recent years. Jordan is asked to join in a reinvigorated American crusade against the Soviet Union in the Middle East by taking up the Palestinian banner, jumping in Ronald Reagan's lap and riding into Jerusalem, if not also into the sunset, on the back of Ronald Reagan's diplomatic horse.

The Pay Off the Israelis corollary is seen in the recent American-Israeli agreements on greater bilateral cooperation. These accords are still in their formative stages, to be sure, but the fact that the United States is taking great pains to assure the Arabs that

these accords should not be seen as a threat to the Arab World is the greatest indication, in Arab eyes, that these accords are a potentially significant threat to the Arab World.

It seems to me that here is yet another attempt, by the Israelis and the Americans, to have Jordan pay the price for a continued lack of reason, boldness and realism on the part of the Americans and the Israelis. It is irrelevant to the American-Israeli combine that the present attempt to entice Jordan into speaking for the Palestinians runs against everything that Jordan has said and done for the past decade. In the world of games, you see, reality does not count for much.

Furthermore, the assumption that Mr. Arafat is finished, and that the PLO has fallen into Syrian-Libyan-Soviet hands, is rather premature. But this, too, matters little to those whose desire to play games is stronger than their capacity to live with the facts of the real world.

One of the most important and hopeful Arab development in recent years has been the initiation of a serious attempt by Jordan and the PLO to work out a joint political programme that would respond to the peace-making impulses of all those, in the Arab World and beyond, who aspire to resolve the Pal-

estian issue, and not to wish it away. Those who would wish the best for Jordan should spend less time asking it to dress up in Palestinian clothing, but rather should work harder to create conditions favourable to the conclusion of a Jordanian-Palestinian negotiating position that could be ratified by the majority of Arabs. It is precisely because Jordan has recognised the reality, and importance, of an independent PLO, working in the interest of Palestinian national self-determination, that a joint Jordan-PLO political programme looms as a hopeful possibility, in the wake of the resolution of the power struggle now taking place within the PLO.

If the situation in the Middle East is increasingly complicated and messy, this is in large part a reflection of the unwillingness of the world, and particularly the game players of the world, to heed clear Jordanian calls for a resolution of the Palestine problem.

The game-playing will continue, however, and I have no doubts that the results will always be the same. Only the Palestinians can speak for themselves, and only a joint Palestinian-Jordanian consensus can lead to a viable negotiating partnership that can, one day, call the American bluff on peace-making in the Holy Land.

NATO will continue missile deployment

By Heinz Peter Dietrich
 Reuter

BRUSSELS — NATO has made clear it will not be moved from its resolve to deploy new U.S. nuclear weapons in Europe, but it hopes Moscow will not abandon East-West dialogue and will come to next month's Stockholm Disarmament Conference.

This was the main message after two days of talks here by foreign ministers of the North Atlantic alliance countries.

In a "Brussels Declaration", the ministers urged the Soviet Union and its allies to return to the nuclear arms negotiating table in Geneva and offered an open and comprehensive dialogue.

Reports that a vacuum at the top may be hindering decision making in Moscow were indirectly dismissed by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who told reporters Soviet President Yuri Andropov appeared to be at work and in charge.

NATO clearly blamed Moscow for the Soviet walkout from the Geneva arms talks. It said it hoped the Russians would come to Stockholm to help reduce the risk of accidental war in Europe and to broaden the dialogue between Europe and North America.

"We call upon the Soviet Union to respect our legitimate security interests as we respect theirs."

The final communiqué confirmed the appointment of former British Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington, 64, to succeed Mr. Luns when he retires on June 25 after 12 years as secretary-general.

Mr. Luns, 72, held the post for more than 12 years. NATO officials hope his successor, widely regarded for bringing about an agreement in 1979 that gave Zimbabwe independence under black majority rule, will improve the alliance's public image.

The ministers also moved to

LETTERS

Sitting on a barren rock?

To the Editor:

Further to your editorial comment on agricultural policies in Jordan (Jordan Times, Dec. 7, 1983), I attach an article published by the International Management Magazine in its May '83 issue. (see page 5).

The article reveals an ambitious plan by the Saudi government to reach self-sufficiency in agricultural production by the year 1986. As can be seen from the article, the Saudis are investing billions of dollars in that project.

What strikes me most about this are two facts:

Firstly: The Eastern part of Jordan — called Badiat Al Sham is not exactly a desert when compared to the Saudi desert, and should therefore be easier to cultivate. Secondly: Irrigation water is being pumped from enormous wells under the Saudi desert while the annual rate of waterfall over Jordan is much greater than that over Saudi Arabia. Why are the Jordan water authorities then unable to find water that meets our needs to irrigate what is wrongly called "the Jordan Desert". Is the situation of water in Jordan similar to that of oil which is being pumped out in all neighbouring countries except us? Is it possible that we alone in the Middle East are sitting on top of a barren rock? If not, let us right away start doing something about irrigating our "desert" — it should not cost us that much money, just effort.

Abdullah Hasanat,
 Amman, Jordan.

Portugal: Violent attack on press freedom

By David Reid
 Reuter

LISBON — A draft press bill proposed by the government has sparked widespread criticism and charges that parts of it go beyond the "Fascist laws" of Marcelo Caetano's government deposited in a military coup in 1974.

The draft was submitted to the media last month by Socialist Minister of State Antonio Almeida Santos, a lawyer and trouble-shooter for Prime Minister Mario Soares.

Mr. Almeida Santos acknowledged that some of its 83 articles were controversial.

He said the Socialist-Social Democratic coalition government wanted "a vast crop of opinions"

before a final text was debated in parliament in the new year.

But the Journalists' Union asked why the 1975 press bill should be redefined at all since it had served fairly well.

"We frontal oppose a revision which in effect means a drastic limitation of the rights and guarantees indispensable to the production of free news," it said in 1975.

It declared that in some cases, the draft law went beyond the "former Fascist laws" of Marcelo Caetano's government deposited in a military coup in 1974.

One of the major criticisms is that a key clause declaring that journalists are not obliged to reveal their sources is followed by another saying this excludes information necessary for the investigation and punishment of public crimes."

An editorial in the independent weekly Expresso, once edited by former Social Democratic Prime

Minister Francisco Pinto Balmaso, said the aim was apparently to assist the police.

In fact, Expresso said, its effect would be to deter informants from tipping off the media.

Critics say the draft contains a further threat in providing for prison sentences of up to one year for merely having access to, even without publication, of information about offences under legal instruction, state or military secrets, confidential documents about commercial competition, and documents containing intimate details about private citizens.

The right-wing weekly Tempo said such punishment was a grave violation of the international principles of penal law.

Under such a law, it said the American journalists who uncovered the Watergate scandal in the United States would have been jailed even if they had not disclosed the facts which led to the resignation of President Richard

Nixon.

The union complained that the proposed law sought to give different rights to journalists in the private and state-owned press. Many of Portugal's major newspapers were nationalised with the banks that owned them after the revolution of the Almeida Santos draft.

The pro-Communist daily, O Diário, called it "an invitation to censorship," which was tightly enforced under Caetano.

President Antonio Ramalho Eanes' spokesman, Joaquim Letria, who received a journalism prize recently, said in his acceptance speech that Portuguese newsmen had never been so poorly paid or more prejudiced in their interests, honour, and prestige.

Jeff is life

Desert conditions are perfect for intensive farming

By Jules Arbouse

Peering down from an airliner in some areas of the Middle East, it is easy to gain the absurd impression that giant genies are playing tidewinks on the desert sands. Massive green circles, ranging in size from 50 to 60 hectares, bloom below, surrounded incongruously by sand.

The verdant swaths are neither mirages nor oases. They are lush man-made pasture-lands that have been systematically cultivated and irrigated in the desert as part of an impressive green revolution that is taking place in Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Modern, intensive farming management techniques are being used in both countries, with heavy input from U.S. and European agribusiness companies, to reclaim the desert land in an effort to achieve self-sufficiency in food production.

Centre pivot irrigation systems, developed and built by several U.S. manufacturers, have been the key in opening up the hot, dry desert as a manageable natural resource and in allowing farming to take place on a large-scale industrial basis. The irrigation system's gangly piped arm, which can extend up to 500 metres, rotates round the clock on a radial axis like a giant propeller on wheels. It sprinkles water, insecticide and fertilizers on plots of land that are almost twice the size of the average 30-hectare farm in Europe.

Cash crop harvests from the former arid wastelands would be the envy of farmers anywhere in the world, and the reclaimed land's ability to supply year-round green forage has already enabled cows in the desert to surpass the

milk yields of Europe's top dairy herds.

Over the last few years, centre pivot irrigation systems have become as prominent a feature of the Saudi landscape as oil rigs were in the past. It is estimated that some 4,000 separate systems, all fed by dormant water deposits, are now operating in the kingdom, which aims to increase cultivated land from about 600,000 hectares to a possible 4 million hectares.

The allocation of funds for major irrigation projects is in addition to the \$2.4 billion that the Saudi government is committed to spending on other-farming projects and subsidies during its current (1980-85) five-year plan which has the ambitious target of achieving agricultural self-sufficiency by 1985.

Government subsidies ranging up to 50 per cent mean that local merchants can buy farm machinery, dairy and poultry equipment, feed concentrates and fertilizers at very favourable prices. As a result of the huge incentive programme, Saudi farms now supply 83 per cent of the country's liquid milk requirements, 33 per cent of its poultry needs and 80 per cent of egg consumption.

Crop subsidies would make Western farmers blush. For example, Saudi farmers sell wheat to government silos or flour mills for \$1 a kilogramme and, or about seven times the world market price. The vast funds going to wheat have led to a leap in local production — 300,000 tonnes last year, compared with 3,000 tonnes in 1981. This year's wheat harvest is expected to hit 550,000 tonnes, putting the annual self-sufficiency wheat target of 800,000 tonnes

well within reach over the next three years.

Looking for sandy pastures

In the Todhiya Valley, a fertile stretch between the capital Riyadh and Haradhin central Saudi Arabia, virgin wheat fields bloom on the desert sands virtually overnight, according to Seamus O'Dwyer, head of hydraulic-powered centre pivot irrigation systems sales for Massstock Saudi Ltd. As a sign of the times, he adds: "In the Todhiya Valley alone we are probably pumping more litres of water from the ground than Aramco is lifting in oil from the whole of Saudi Arabia."

Massstock, a Northern Ireland-based company, is one of the pioneers of wheat and forage crop production and dairy cattle farming in Saudi Arabia. Founded in the 1920s, Massstock established its reputation by using modern farming techniques to develop the largest and most productive milk herd in Ireland.

In 1976, however, the company was faced with stagnating growth in Europe for sales of its intensive dairy farming systems and chairman Alastair McGuckian began looking for more sandy pastures. "We saw Saudi Arabia as a new opportunity for us, despite the warnings that we could never raise dairy cattle and grow crops in such a harsh climate," says McGuckian.

Since then, the ruggedly-built McGuckian, in partnership with Prince Sultan Ibn Mohammad Ibn Saud Al Kabir, has set up six dairy farms and 12 wheat farms in the kingdom. In addition three Massstock dairy farms and 20 wheat farms are scheduled to come on

stream over the next year. All are self-contained units located in remote parts of the desert.

Unlike most of its competitors, Massstock specialises in ongoing management rather than turnkey projects. To ensure the efficient development of each farm, it provides detailed project planning, land reclamation, irrigation and hydrology, forage production, livestock supply and civil engineering facilities. It supplies all the machinery for developing, irrigating and cultivating the land and harvesting crops as well as for milking the cows and processing the milk. It builds all the farms' workshops, storage and accommodation units and installs all the power generation, refrigeration and water purification facilities.

"Farming needs as much, if not more, financial and management control as any manufacturing business," says McGuckian. "This is why we insist on long-term management contracts for all our facilities. With modern, intensive farming techniques and the application of sophisticated control and monitoring systems, it is possible to improve efficiency ratios and achieve annual productivity gains just like any industry."

McGuckian recalls that initially he also had some doubts about the water supply, soil conditions and the ability of Friesians and Holsteins to survive and produce milk in summer temperatures that reach upwards of 50 degrees centigrade. But they were squelched during one of his three exploratory trips to the kingdom, after he visited a research station in Hofuf, where a team from Bangor University in Wales was doing

experimental work in raising dairy cattle and forage crops. "They had a good reporting system, and their research convinced me that farming in the desert on a large industrial basis could be a profitable commercial undertaking for us," he says.

In mid-1976, Massstock signed its first contract to build a dairy farm and within weeks had mastered a team of high technicians, including an hydrologist to look for a suitable site. "A source of water was our first priority," says McGuckian. "and we really started from scratch. We literally walked into the desert from a predetermined point. There were no roads, no houses, no electricity. Just sand."

Sand is rich in nutrients

In the first project (and in all subsequent ones), Massstock came across great variances in both the composition of the soil and the depths that had to be drilled to find suitable water. Contrary to popular belief McGuckian says, "chemically, there is a lot of nutrition in sand".

Generally he has found it to be rich in potash with a good level of acidity, but lacking in phosphates, nitrogen and trace elements, all of which can be corrected through proper fertilisation. Massstock also turns its cow manure into a slush that is spread on the cultivated fields, to compensate for the lack of organic matter in the soil.

Sands with high levels of salinity have to be flushed and cleansed to depths of nearly a metre. Heavy earth has to be tackled with a road ripper to aerate the soil. "Sand dunes are easy," quips McGuckian. "They just have to be smoothed down."

To find fresh water, Massstock has drilled wells to depths of 2,000 metres and has discovered it as shallow as 100 metres. "The coverage is about 300 metres," he says. "If we hit salty water, we case off with the well with a lining and drill right on down past it."

Barely three months after signing the contract, Massstock began flying in the equipment for its first dairy farm. Within six months of signature the whole dairy plant and cattle housing were in place and the cows in calf, selected from professional breeders in the United States, Australia, and Holland, began arriving. "We were growing 70 hectares of grass with two centre pivots when the first batch arrived," says McGuckian.

In all, 500 cows were flown in. Within three to four months of arrival, they had calved and were producing milk. "We began earning revenues by selling bulk milk to traders in March, 1977," recalls McGuckian. "By June, we were packaging our own milk and selling 6,000 litres of it daily to the public under our own Almarai brand label."

During its first summer of operations in Saudi Arabia, Massstock found that heat stress was a problem for the cows and affected milk yields. It has since experimented with several systems, including roof insulation, fans and cooling ducts in an effort to lower the temperatures in the barns where the cows spend most of the summer months. The most effective cooling method has proved to be an automatic sprinkler system that directs a fine spray of water on the cows periodically throughout the day and night.

In spite of the intertemperate summer months, Massstock has consistently increased the yields of its dairy cows and claims now to have herds that exceed the best producers in Europe. The first herds started with milk yields of about 5,000 litres a year per cow, which is better than the national average of most countries.

But at Ath Thumama farm, which was built for the late King Khalid near his summer palace 75 kilometres north-west of Riyadh, Massstock is managing a herd that has an average annual yield per head of 6,200 litres of milk. "That's top bracket dairy farming, and well in excess of the annual average yields of about 5,500 litres for Dutch cows and 5,000 litres for British cows," says McGuckian.

The rates would even be higher if Massstock were allowed to cull 20 per cent low yielders from the herd, a common practice in other countries. But the Saudi government, which pays the freight cost of flying in the cows (it costs \$160,000 to hire a jumbo jet that carries about 1,800 cattle), is committed to expanding the cattle population of the country and limits its culling to 5 per cent.

Constant monitoring of each cow's performance and acting immediately on feed-back accounts for the higher yields, according to Ivan Morrison, manager of Massstock's Todhiya dairy farm, 160 kilometres east of Riyadh. An example is the detailed record that Massstock units keep of each of their cows, recording everything from the animal's "grandparents" to its offspring. The record contains current daily and previous annual milk yields, a

complete medical history and such esoteric information as the cow's intervals between insemination and calving.

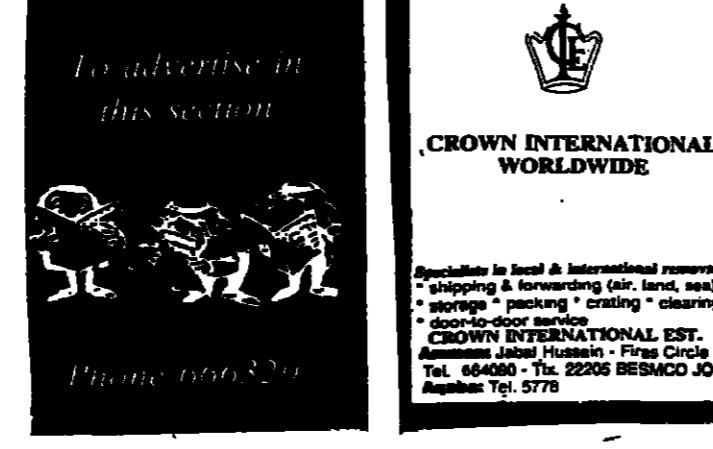
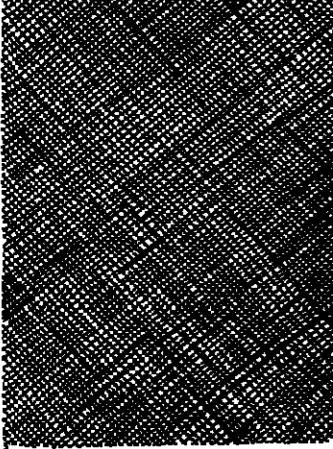
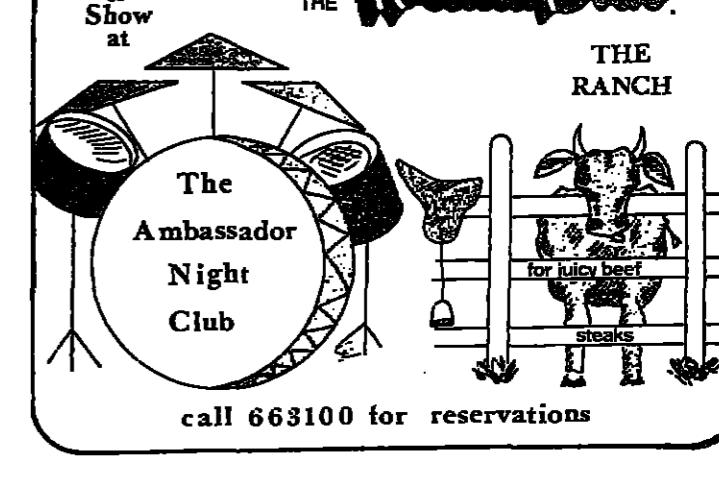
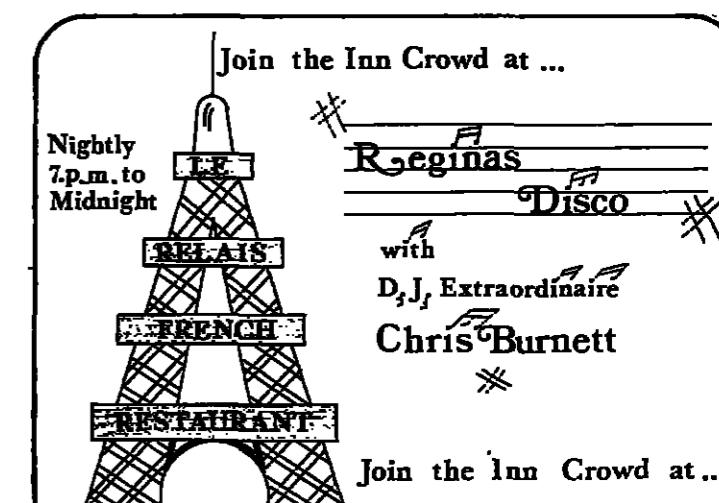
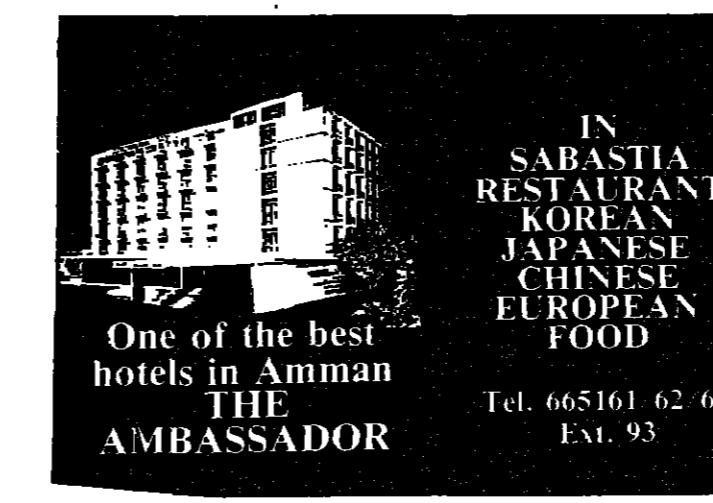
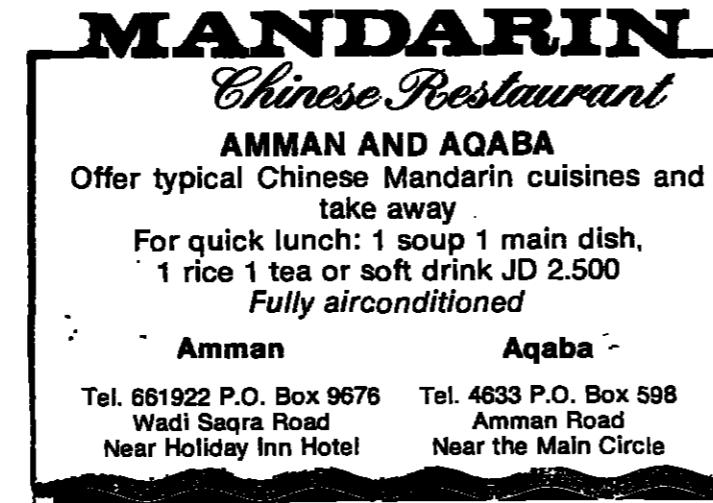
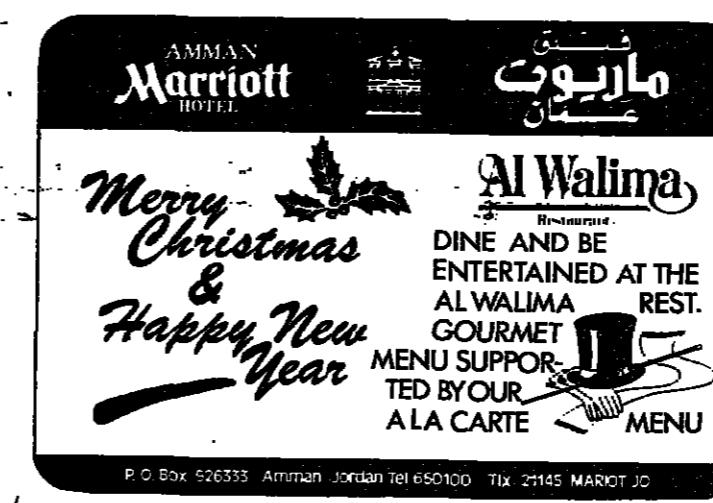
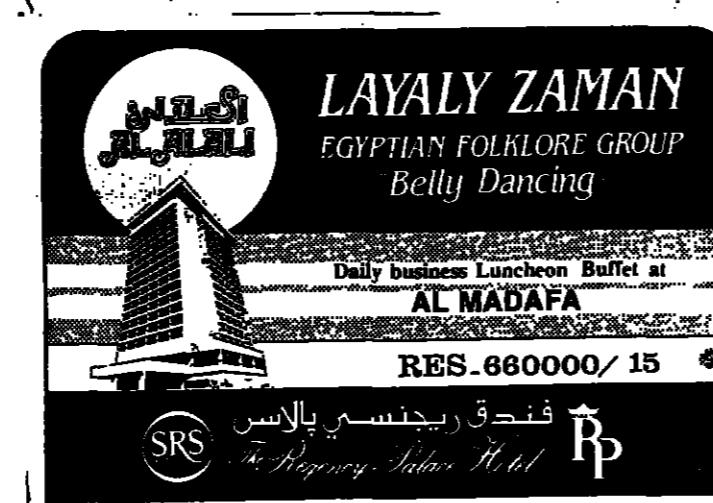
"All of this information is vital for breeding purposes," says Morrison. "By carefully monitoring the daily performance of each cow we can calculate almost to the day when it is time to give her a rest and begin a new breeding cycle or whether we should continue to supplement her diet with concentrates to increase her productivity."

But even McGuckian concedes that the centre pivot irrigation system has made it all possible. "We have better milk yields because we can feed our cows green material all year round," he says. "In Europe, you can produce grass for six or seven months a year. Here we get about 12 harvests of fresh grass every year. In Europe, farmers would be happy with three."

"To most people the desert represents the most horrendous crop growing conditions in the world," adds McGuckian. "But the conditions are actually perfect for intensive farming. We get all the sunshine we need. We have absolute control over the water, and we don't have to worry about the rain ruining the harvest."

As for profits, McGuckian's brother, Paddy, notes that European farmers would be happy with a 4 per cent on sales. "Here, because of the high risk involved and the huge initial investment in time and money, I would be less than happy with twice that amount. And that's only in dairy. In wheat, we aim to make considerably more." — International Management.

JORDAN MARKETPLACE



Holmes gives up WBC title

LAS VEGAS (R) — Larry Holmes, World Boxing Council (WBC) heavyweight champion for more than five years, gave up his title on Sunday in a surprise move.

The 34-year-old American announced his decision at an executive council meeting at the annual WBC convention at Caesars Palace here.

Holmes' resignation comes after a lengthy controversy with the WBC over his next title defense. The WBC said Holmes must fight number one contender and compatriot Greg Page, while the champion said he would not do so because the money offered "was not enough."

The WBC were ready to strip Holmes of his crown and declare the heavyweight title vacant, according to boxing sources at the convention here on Saturday.

But Holmes beat them to the punch. "I made up my mind to

resign early this morning," said Holmes. "I don't want to embarrass the WBC. I don't want to embarrass (promoter) Don King and I don't want to embarrass me."

Holmes' announcement was met by applause and displays of goodwill between Holmes, King and WBC President Jose Sulaiman.

Sulaiman called Holmes "my champion", though at a WBC banquet Saturday night Sulaiman failed to mention Holmes when acknowledging all other WBC champions.

Sig Rogich, first vice president of the WBC and a member of the Nevada State Athletic Commission, said: "Under the cir-

cumstances this is probably the best thing for everyone involved."

Rogich said the WBC would order a fight for the vacant title between Page and American Tim Witherspoon, their ninth day two contender, "within 90 days."

The WBC threatened to strip Holmes of his title unless he honored a signed contract with King to fight Page in a mandatory title defence early next year.

Holmes repeatedly said he would not be dictated to by "any promoter or organisation." He said the \$2.5m King was going to pay him to fight Page was not enough.

Holmes said he preferred to fight World Boxing Association (WBA) heavyweight champion Gerrie Coetzee of South Africa, a fight which could make him four times the money. King said he would not increase Holmes' purse for the Page fight.

"There's no pressure on me," said Holmes as he left for the airport and a return flight to his home in Easter, Pennsylvania.

Two probable boxing groups under whose auspices Holmes could fight are the WBA and the newly-formed International Boxing Federation.

Singapore to host Asia-Oceania Olympic qualifying soccer

TOKYO (R) — The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Monday decided to select Singapore as the site for the second round of the Asia-Oceania soccer elimination for the Los Angeles Olympics.

An AFC spokesman said the selection of Singapore was decided unanimously without taking a vote.

He said the one-round round-

Sugar Ray Leonard returns to boxing

CAMP SPRINGS, Maryland (R) — Former welterweight champion Sugar Ray Leonard said Sunday night he would return to the ring after an absence of nearly two years.

The spokesman said the proposal to select Singapore as the site was advanced by Thailand, Malaysia, South Korea, New Zealand and Japan.

New Zealand had proposed a home-and-away series but agreed on Singapore as the site after Malaysia agreed to play three friendly matches in New Zealand including Auckland sometime in April.

The spokesman said New Zealand wanted to host matches in the country to promote soccer.

robin series of both Group 'A' and Group 'B' will be staged at Singapore from April 14 to 29 to decide the three teams going to the 16-nation soccer Olympics.

The spokesman said the two group winners would qualify and the runners-up of both groups would vie for the third place on April 29.

Kuwait, New Zealand, South Korea, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia are in Group 'A' and Malaysia, Thailand, Iraq, Qatar and Japan will play in Group 'B', he said.

General Secretary of the International Football Association (FIFA) J.S. Blatter said the series would be decided on goal difference in case of ties.

The spokesman said the pro-

India collapses after Lloyd's Century

CALCUTTA, India (R) — India collapsed to 36 for five in their second innings after a masterly innings of 161 not out by Clive Lloyd put West Indies in command of the fifth cricket test here on Monday.

Tuesday's rest day will be one of bitter reflection for the Indians who on Sunday had West Indies on the run at 88 for five. But Lloyd's 18th test hundred lifted his side to 377, a lead of 136, and now India, with half their second innings wickets gone, need a further 100 runs to avoid losing by an innings and going 3-0 down in the six-match series.

Lloyd's partner in rebuilding the West Indian innings was fast bowler Andy Roberts, who made 68 and helped his captain add a record 161 for the ninth wicket.

Malcolm Marshall and Michael Holding tore India's second inn-

ings to shreds in 11 overs before the close of the third day. Holding taking three for 11 and Marshall two for 20.

Ghana's Kotoko beats Egypt's National to win African Cup

KUMASI, Ghana (R) — Ghana's Asante Kotoko, fired by a match-winning goal from Opoku Nti, landed the African Champions' Soccer Cup here on Sunday.

Kotoko beat holders National of Egypt 1-0 in the second leg of the final to complete a 1-0 aggregate success after a goalless draw in the first leg in Cairo two weeks ago.

Opoku's decisive goal came in the 22nd minute watched by 100,000 fans crammed into the Kumasi sports stadium.

The dominant Ghanaians who recaptured the premier African soccer trophy after 13 years, soon forced National (Al-Ahly) onto the defensive and only brilliant saves from goalkeeper Ekramy stopped Kotoko's rampaging forwards from adding to the score.

Kotoko's win, which avenged

last year's 4-1 aggregate defeat by the Egyptians in the final, triggered an ecstatic victory parade through the streets of Kumasi, Ghana's second city and home of the Ashanti people.

Most of the spectators slept in the open around the stadium Saturday night for lack of hotel accommodation.

Opoku's goal and decisive role in both legs of the final is certain to fuel efforts to tempt him away from Ghana.

A top Ivory Coast club are leading the hunt to Sign Opoku, whose languid and elegant style belies a venomous streak in front of goal.

Kotoko will supply the bulk of Ghana's national team, the Black Stars, when they defend the African Nations Cup in the finals in Ivory Coast next March.

Alexander bundled out of NSW Open

SYDNEY (R) — Defending champion John Fitzgerald was lucky to survive a tense match against American tournament qualifier David Dowlen, making heavy weather of his 6-7, 6-4, 7-5 win.

But Wally Masur, drafted into the Australian squad to meet Sweden in the Davis Cup final later this month, continued his winning run by beating team-mate Brad Drewett 4-6, 6-4, 7-5.

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China's foreign debt totals \$3b

PEKING (R) — China's first published figures for its outstanding foreign debt said it totalled \$3.0 billion at the end of September.

The latest issue of the official magazine Zhongguo Jinrong (China Finance) published the figures along with foreign exchange and gold statistics which it has issued since 1981.

It said China's foreign indebtedness totalled \$3.432 billion at the end of July and \$2.960 billion at the end of August.

Western bankers said China owed money mainly to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and Japan from which it had borrowed at highly favourable rates. It had generally shunned long-term commercial loans, they said.

They said the figures published by Zhongguo Jinrong were \$1 to \$2 billion lower than foreign estimates, possibly because the official figures did not include China's short-term debts on the international money market.

Several other countries, including the Philippines, also excluded such debts from their published figures in order to make their financial position appear healthier than it was, the bankers said.

But they said China had little reason to doctor its figures as its foreign exchange and gold reserves were vast.

Its foreign exchange holdings totalled \$14.066 billion and its gold reserves amounted to 12.67 million ounces at the end of September, according to official figures.

Australian dollar gains

SYDNEY (R) — The Australian dollar moved higher against the U.S. dollar in a hectic first day's trading on local foreign exchange markets after the government's decision to float the currency, dealers said.

But the gains, amounting to a revaluation of about 2 per cent, were well short of the 5 per cent rise anticipated in some financial circles, they said.

The government announced last Friday that it was abolishing foreign exchange controls and allowing the dollar to float in line with most other Western industrialised nations.

The dollar rose to 92.60 U.S. cents as a high for the day compared with the final mid-rate set by the Reserve Bank last week of 90.25 cents.

Treasurer Paul Keating said he was well pleased with the settled nature of the first day's trading.

Market estimates put Monday's turnover at around 300 million dollars (\$276 million) with active buying and selling of the dollar.

Dollar surges on news of Kuwait bomb blasts

LONDON (R) — The dollar surged on foreign exchange markets Monday on reports of a series of bomb attacks in Kuwait against mainly U.S. targets.

Confirming investors' faith in the dollar as a safe haven for funds at times of international tension, the U.S. unit gained against every major currency while gold, the traditional refuge, scarcely moved from its pre-weekend level around \$390 per ounce.

In Frankfurt, the dollar reached 2.7547 marks, its highest for nearly 10 years, after news of the first bomb blast at the U.S. embassy in Kuwait. This was more than a pfennig above New York's level of 2.7433 marks late on Friday.

U.S. currency hit a record high against the French franc at 8.3663 francs, was near a record against sterling, which at one point sank to 51.4320, and also made strong gains against the Swiss franc and mark-denominated funds.

Dealers said reaction to the bombings had outweighed the effects of fast Friday's \$2.1 billion decline in U.S. M-1 — the narrowly-defined measure of liquid money supply — which had depressed the dollar in New York trading.

The dealers said other factors underpinning the dollar were U.S.-Soviet tensions over arms talks, expected increases in other U.S. monetary indicators and last Friday's comment by Treasury Secretary Donald Regan that U.S. interest rates would stay high.

In Europe, investor confidence in West Germany has been hit by the flick bribery scandal and the charges impending against Economics Minister Otto Lambdorff, and the dealers said these factors had depressed the mark and mark-denominated funds.

Dealers said reaction to the bombings had outweighed the effects of fast Friday's \$2.1 billion decline in U.S. M-1 — the narrowly-defined measure of liquid money supply — which had depressed the dollar in New York trading.

The Bundesbank and the Bank of England were both detected in

the markets on Friday, but dealers said there was no sign of official intervention Monday.

During morning trading the dollar settled slightly above 2.75 marks and also steamed against the other major currencies.

In Bahrain, interest rates on large Saudi riyal deposits in Bahrain were unchanged from Sunday, but the spot riyal fell following reports of bomb explosions in Kuwait, dealers said.

The dollar strengthened on the reports, and was quoted at 2.7353/40 against 2.7411/40 in Gulf trading Sunday. The spot riyal, which firmed Sunday to 3.1406/11 in the absence of an anticipated riyal devaluation, was quoted at 3.1415/18.

Dealers said trading was moderate, but the market was nervous. Banks holding dollars were consolidating positions, but there was little new dollar position-taking as dealers awaited guidance from Europe.

Top banker calls on Fed to ease policy

current borrowing conditions could cause renewed recession next year.

A relaxation of the policy would provide cheaper borrowing and make the dollar less attractive as an investment.

Mr. Walter Wriston, chairman of Citicorp, told Reuters in a weekend interview that he feared slow growth of the money supply would choke off recovery in the United States.

"It's a risk that should be reduced, and I think it can be reduced," he said.

M-1 money supply — cash plus checking accounts — has grown very little recently and is below the Fed's target path.

The Fed has not relaxed monetary policy because it fears fast economic growth could rekindle inflation, but some officials argue that M-1 growth is so weak that

they have political uncertainty.

Mr. Wriston said countries with debt problems could recover quickly and resume borrowing on international markets if they took timely measures to stabilise their economies.

"Mexico, I was told in 1982,

was going to go bankrupt and drag down the international banking system," he said. But now the country had a large balance of payments surplus, strong oil exports and a budget deficit halved to 8½ per cent of its gross domestic product.

Mr. Wriston led the commercial bank side of rescue efforts for Brazil and Mexico, the largest Third World debtors.

Citicorp is the largest U.S. banking institution by assets.

Meanwhile, Fed officials who

meet next week to set monetary policy are sharply divided over whether they should tighten credit and so force interest rates up.

Several policymakers are deeply worried that the pace of economic growth is so rapid that it may soon cause inflation to flare up again.

But the sources said other officials argue that M-1 is so weak that it means current credit conditions could plunge the country into recession next year.

These officials believe that trends in monetary growth signal future economic behaviour. They fear that even though the economy is performing well today, the current sluggish pace of M-1 should be regarded as a warning sign.

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1983

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A good morning for showing your ability to tie loose ends together. The rest of the day and evening are great for putting into effect new plans of operation in an up-to-date way.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Handle worrisome matters early, and then you can go after personal aims. Enjoy the company of good friends this evening.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Settle details early so you will have less trouble gaining personal goals. Spend an enjoyable evening with your mate and friends.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Clear your desk of any jobs that still need handling. Later on, you can be with persons from whom you could learn a great deal.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Collect all the data you can regarding a new venture you started. Get backing from a bigwig. Show wisdom.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Improve your credit standing by getting caught up on all your bills. Look into more lucrative interests. Be careful in making decisions.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Handle a problematic affair with a partner in the morning, but know what is expected of you first. Tonight is romantic.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Give your fullest attention to your work in the morning otherwise you will lose out on bigger things. Be clever.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Put the finishing touches on creative work; you will gain from it. Feel satisfied and happy tonight.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) The situation at home could be confusing, but show patience. A modern type of amusement could be interesting.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You may get some confusing communications; study them carefully to understand them. Get into the spirit of things tonight.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Penetrate some problematic affairs after lunch. After a successful day, take time to see friends and relations.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Concentrate on your finest goals in life, and draw up a plan for attaining them. Improve your appearance and health. Be financially astute.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be someone who should be taught the right philosophy of life otherwise your progeny will never be sure of the self. Teach morality and discrimination, and upon adulthood he or she can be a force for good in the world.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices closed quietly mixed Monday but small selective demand made for a firm undertone, dealers said. At 1500 the F.T. index was up 0.4 at 757.5.

Gains among leading issues were cut back after disappointing half-year results from GEC, dealers said. GEC itself was 11p off at 175 but BTR firmed 15p to 432 on investment demand.

Government bonds showed net falls ranging to ½ point reflecting concern over sterling's weakness and higher U.S. interest rates. Gold shares firmed and North American shares were mixed.

Boots, Glaxo, Grand Met and BOC firmed between 4p and 6p while ICI ended unchanged at 650 after 652. Lucas fell 3p to 168 after news of further redundancies announced at the annual general meeting Monday, dealers said.

Hill Samuel was 23p up at 346 on renewed bid speculation. Lloyds Bank was unchanged at 564 on news that it reached agreement to buy parts of West German private bankers Schroeder. Muenchmeyer, Hengst und Co. Eagle Star was a net 15p lower at 697 awaiting bid developments.

Oils ended narrowly mixed.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

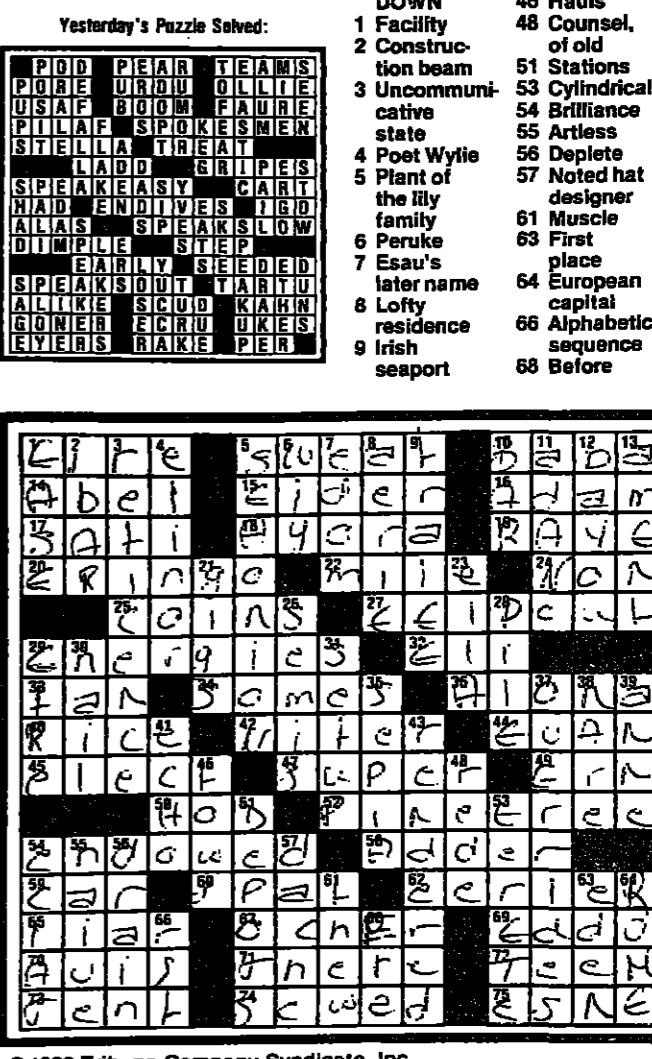
One sterling	1.4345/55	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2473/76	Canadian dollars
	2.750N/18	West German marks
	2.0140/50	Dutch guilders
	2.2198/21N	Swiss francs
	55.8N/94	Belgian francs
	8.3635/65	French francs
	1666.00/1667.00	Italian lire
	236.02/12	Japanese yen
	8.1600/30	Swedish crowns
	7.7800/30	Norwegian crowns
	9.9740/70	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	390.75/391.25	U.S. dollars

THE Daily Crossword

by May Mannix

ACROSS	24	French	52	Maine's nickname	10	Small unit of music	
1	Cork's place	denial	54	Talented	11	"A Bell for —"	
5	Word with suit or shirt	27	Burbot	58	Poisonous snake	12	Body of water
10	Rum cake	29	Working powers	59	Auto	13	Idiot
14	Biblical victim	32	Wallach	60	Tiff	21	Musician's engagements
15	Downy duck	33	Sunbum	62	More uncanny	22	Fitzgerald
16	Father of 14A	34	Hungarian	65	Mythomaniac	23	Truck rigs
17	Egyptian queen of the gods	36	Hawaiian	67	Yellow pigment	26	Heap
18	Where Greek met Greek	40	Paddie plant	69	Taro root	29	Raison d'—
19	Comedienne	42	Gunpowder ingredient	70	Rara —	30	Catch
20	Martha	44	Celtic name	71	"Over —"	31	Arrangement
21	— bragh	45	Choose	72	Abound	35	Dark brown
22	Eight furlongs	47	Teen-age hyperbole	73	Circus milieu	37	Dominates
		49	See bird	74	Stitched	38	Rabbit
		50	Brick holder	75	Land slave	39	Bankcroft
						41	Repeat
						43	Hauls
						48	Counsel, of old
						51	Stations
						53	Cylindrical Brilliance
						55	Artless
						56	Deplete
						57	Noted hat designer
						61	Muscle
						63	Play
						64	European Capital
						66	Alphabetic sequence
						68	Before

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



Soviets confirm launchpad mishap

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet space officials confirmed Monday that two cosmonauts ejected to safety from an exploding launch rocket last September and that the manned Salyut-7 orbiting station had been hit by a fuel leak.

Answering questions at a Moscow press conference, cosmonaut Vladimir Lyakhov and space training chief Vladimir Shatalov gave the first official word on the two incidents reported earlier by Western intelligence sources.

Space officials had earlier denied there had been any mishaps during the 149-day mission aboard Salyut-7 by Lyakhov and engineer Alexander Alexandrov. The two returned to earth on Nov. 23.

Asked whether it was true to a relief had been due to fly to Salyut from the Baikonur cosmodrome in September, Lyakhov replied: "The launching was planned for

Sept. 26 and it was true that there was an accident and the crew was ejected and returned safely. We were told immediately."

Lyakhov said that as a result of the accident he and Alexandrov stayed aboard Salyut longer than planned and carried out a modified work programme there.

According to earlier reports from unofficial Soviet sources, the launch vehicle exploded as it was lifting off from Baikonur and the two crew were injured by the acceleration from their ejecting Soyuz capsule.

Gen. Shatalov confirmed reports of the fuel leak in a pro-

pulsion system on the cylindrical orbiting station, but played down the importance of the mishap.

According to some Western newspaper reports in October and November, the leak virtually immobilised the 47-tonne space complex and put the cosmonauts' lives in danger.

"Indeed there was a problem in one of the subsystems and there was a leak of a certain amount of fuel but the station continued to be viable with that part of the station switched off," he said.

The subsystem was used for correcting Salyut's orbit and maneuvering for docking, Gen. Shatalov said.

He said back-up systems coped with the failure and he denied that two space walks performed by the cosmonauts in the closing stages of their flight had anything to do with the leak.

"When you threw objects away they became little stars. It was very beautiful. Words fail me to describe all that," he said.

Alfonsin expected to purge Argentine military

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentina's new civilian president, Raúl Alfonsin, was expected Monday to announce a purge of senior armed forces officers after nearly eight years of right-wing military rule, military sources said.

They said more than half the army's generals, who total about 50, will be forced into retirement and not replaced, and smaller numbers of top-ranking officers will be purged from the navy and air force.

The purge will be particularly severe in the army because it has

not weeded out officers responsible for Argentina's defeat by Britain after it invaded the British Falkland (Malvinas) Islands colony last year.

Mr. Alfonsin has also blamed senior military officers for human rights abuses and the disappearance of up to 30,000 people in a wide-ranging crackdown which began as a fight against left-wing guerrillas.

He was sworn in last Saturday, having won a landslide victory in general elections on Oct. 30.

Kampuchean leaders visit Peking today

PEKING (R) — Kampuchean leaders Khoue Samphan and Son Sann will arrive in Peking Tuesday for talks with Prince Norodom Sihanouk, president of their anti-Vietnamese coalition, a Democratic Kampuchea embassy spokesman said Monday.

Khoue Samphan, foreign minister of the coalition and Son Sann, its prime minister, would meet Prince Sihanouk when he arrived from Paris on Thursday, he said.

Khoue Samphan and Son Sann were invited to Peking by the Chinese government and their visit would last about 10 days. They would arrive from Bangkok, the spokesman said, but declined to give further details.

Western and South East Asian diplomats expressed surprise at the planned meeting of the three leaders, who have never concealed their mutual animosity.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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SCHENKEN SPARKLES

DEAR READERS: We have had many requests over the years for those hands that we consider to be our favorites. That makes quite a list. For the time being, therefore, we are devoting the Sunday column to a series of famous hands. At the end of the series, we will go back to our weekly question and answer column.

North-South vulnerable.
East deals.

NORTH

♦ A K 75
♦ J 964
♦ Q A 6
♦ A K

WEST

♦ Q 932 ♦ 10 64
♦ A K 10 ♦ Void
♦ 10 4 ♦ K J 9853
♦ J 854 ♦ Q 10 73

SOUTH

♦ J 8
♦ Q 87532
♦ 72
♦ 962

The bidding:
East South West North
3 ♦ Pass Pass 3 NT
Pass 4 ♦ Pass Pass
Pass
Opening lead: Ten of ♠.

The late Howard Schenken was known as the expert's expert. Not so much for sheer brilliancy, though he made enough of those plays for any three experts, but, because of the clarity of his analysis over the table. This hand, from the 1941 team

championships, is one of our particular favorites.

East's preemptive opening bid is typical of duplicate tactics at favorable vulnerability. Schenken decided that his hand might produce no tricks at a no trump contract, so he removed to four hearts.

West led the ten of diamonds, and there would have been no problem had Schenken been able to afford to duck this trick. But since it was likely that East held a seven-card diamond suit, a duck would have exposed South to an immediate diamond ruff. Therefore, declarer rose with the ace of diamonds.

Opponents of Mr. Nakasone are making maximum capital out of the scandal in which Mr. Tanaka was given a four-year jail sentence in October for accepting a \$2 million bribe from Lockheed Aircraft Corporation.

Factional rivalry in an election

is made possible by the system of multi-member constituencies. All but one of the 130 constituencies have between three and five seats in the House of Representatives.

LDP rivals are thus enabled to stand against each other as well as the opposition in the same district.

The electors each have one vote and victory goes to these candidates with the biggest totals.

Schenken allowed for the possibility that trumps were 3-0 and that East had opened on a six-card suit. He cashed the ace-king of spades and entered his hand with a spade ruff to lead a trump from his hand. West could rise with a trump honor and lead diamonds, but declarer could now ruff the third diamond with the queen of trumps. Whether or not West overruled, a trump lead toward the jack would limit him to two trump tricks!

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The strength of factional rivalry is reflected in the 339 candidates fielded by the LDP, the largest number in 11 years.

In nine electoral districts pro-

Tanaka candidates are pitted not only against other factions and the opposition but against each other as well.

Standing against the prime minister in the five-seat constituency is one of his most ardent foes, former Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda who never forgave Mr. Nakasone for deserting him in 1972 and backing Mr. Tanaka for LDP

leadership.

In previous elections, Mr. Nakasone has finished four times ahead of Fukuda and eight times behind him.

Both are certain to be returned to parliament. It is traditionally important for an incumbent prime minister to top the poll in his own constituency. If Mr. Fukuda again comes out top it would dent Mr. Nakasone's party prestige.

Another acrimonious contest is in Tokushima between cabinet secretary Masaharu Gotoda, a Tanaka backer, and former Prime Minister Takeo Miki who would like to see "kingmaker" Tanaka thrown out of politics.

Followers of Mr. Nakasone are acknowledging as Japan's most powerful politician for all his setbacks, nurse a special hostility for Mr. Miki.

It was Mr. Miki who, when he was prime minister in 1976, gave the go-ahead for Mr. Tanaka's arrest and prosecution.

In the heat of the factional strife, opposition parties are sometimes almost disregarded. The prime target of the anti-Nakasone factions is to increase their strength beyond the K2 seats they held in the old house of representatives.

The pro-Nakasone section of the LDP held 173 seats. Only 31 LDP members operated outside the factional fold.

Largest of the pro-government factions was the 64-man bloc controlled by Mr. Tanaka who, though forced out of the LDP by the Lockheed scandal, continued to exert power as an independent member of the house.

Mr. Nakasone's own faction amounted to 46 followers. The other so-called mainstream group was led by another ex-prime minister, Zenko Suzuki.

The three anti-Nakasone factions were one led by Mr. Fukuda, one by ex-Trade Minister Toshiro Komoto and a small six-man group whose leader committed suicide last January.

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